

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport
Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson na h-Eaconamaidh,
Turasachd agus Còmhhdhail
Rt Hon Stephen Flynn MSP
An Fhìor Urr Stephen Flynn BPA



Scottish Government
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Stuart McMillan MSP
Convener
Climate Action Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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By email:
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16 September 2026

Dear Convener,

I am writing to update the Committee on the status of the Scottish Government's work relating to the regulatory check of local road user charging powers under Part 3 of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2001.

Members may be aware that the Scottish Government committed, through 'Achieving Car Use Reduction in Scotland: A Renewed Policy Statement', to undertake a regulatory check of the existing local road user charging framework. Since 2025, officials have engaged with local authorities, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), Regional Transport Partnerships, and other stakeholders as part of that work.

On 16 September, the Scottish Government provided an update on this work in response to a Government Initiated Question, which can be found here: [Written question and answer: S7W-03305 | Scottish Parliament Website](#).

As set out in that answer, given the ongoing financial pressures facing households, we do not believe it is appropriate currently to continue work on the regulatory check of local road user charging powers. Accordingly, no further work is being taken forward at this time.

I recognise that completion of the regulatory check was identified within the Climate Change Plan as an action intended to support changes in travel behaviour. The Scottish Government remains committed to meeting Scotland's carbon budget targets and achieving net zero emissions by 2045. We will continue to support sustainable travel and reduce transport emissions, contributing to delivery of the Climate Change Plan while helping to realise the economic opportunities of the transition to net zero.

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I am writing separately to ensure that the Committee is informed directly of this update, given its interest in matters relating to climate change and transport emissions reduction.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Flynn', is centered on the page.

STEPHEN FLYNN MSP

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